

Claims

[c1] What is claimed is:

1. A portable computer that is capable of being connected to a computer, the portable computer comprising:

a processor;

a display device electrically connected to the processor for displaying output of the processor;

a communications module electrically connected to the processor for communicating with the computer, the communications module having a first mode and a second mode; and

an expansion slot electrically connected to the processor capable of accepting an expansion card for expanding capabilities of the processor;

wherein when the communications module is in the first mode the communications module allows communication between the expansion slot and the processor and prevents communication between the expansion slot and the computer, and when the communications module is in the second mode the communications module allows communication between the expansion slot and the computer and prevents communication between the expansion slot and the processor.

[c2] 2. The portable computer of claim 1 wherein the communications module further comprises a third mode, wherein the communications module in the third mode prevents communication between the expansion slot and the processor, and prevents communication between the expansion slot and the computer.

[c3] 3. The portable computer of claim 2 wherein the communications module is in the third mode when the expansion card is removed from the expansion slot.

[c4] 4. The portable computer of claim 1 further comprising a connection port electrically connected to the communications module, wherein the connection port is capable of being connected to the computer.

[c5] 5. The portable computer of claim 4 wherein the mode of the communications module is set by the communications module detecting a state of the

connection port of the portable computer, wherein the communications module is in the first mode when the connection port is not connected to the computer, and the communications module is in the second mode when the connection port is connected to the computer.

- [c6] 6.The portable computer of claim 1 further comprising a wireless communications module electrically connected to the communications module, wherein the wireless communications module is capable of exchanging signals with the computer.
- [c7] 7.The portable computer of claim 6 wherein the mode of the communications module is set by the communications module detecting a state of the wireless communications module, wherein the communications module is in the first mode when the wireless communications module is not exchanging signals with the computer, and the communications module is in the second mode when the wireless communications module is exchanging signals with the computer.
- [c8] 8.The portable computer of claim 6 wherein the mode of the communications module is set by the communications module detecting a state of the wireless communications module, wherein the communications module is in the first mode when the wireless communications module is exchanging signals with the computer, and the communications module is in the second mode when the wireless communications module is not exchanging signals with the computer.
- [c9] 9.The portable computer of claim 1 wherein the mode of the communications module is set by the processor and the computer.
- [c10] 10.The portable computer of claim 9 wherein the communications module further comprises a fourth mode, wherein the communications module allows the expansion slot to communicate with both the processor and the computer.
- [c11] 11.The portable computer of claim 1 further comprising a connection port electrically connected to the communications module, wherein the connection port is capable of being connected to the computer.
- [c12] 12.The portable computer of claim 1 further comprising a wireless

communications module electrically connected to the communications module, wherein the wireless communications module is capable of exchanging signals with the computer.

- [c13] 13.The portable computer of claim 1 further comprising an input device for interfacing with the portable computer.
- [c14] 14.The portable computer of claim 1 wherein the expansion card is a secure digital (SD) card.
- [c15] 15.The portable computer of claim 1 wherein the expansion card is a flash memory card.
- [c16] 16.The portable computer of claim 1 wherein the display device is a liquid crystal display (LCD).